

Library Bicycle Locker Public Art Project Fact Sheet



City of Tempe
Cultural Services
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Photo: Craig Smith

Title: Bicycle Locker

Location: Tempe Community Center on the plaza between the Tempe Public Library's northwest corner and the Pyle Adult Center, on the southwest corner of Rural Road and Southern Avenue

Artists: Ron Bimrose and Rita Maria Magdaleno

Completion: 2000

Medium: Painted steel

Description: The artists turned strictly functional metal bicycle storage lockers into works of art by embellishing them with imagery that celebrates the bicycle. The purpose of the project was to encourage employees at municipal facilities to utilize bicycles as an alternate form of transportation. Visual artist Ron Bimrose and poet Rita Maria Magdaleno worked with eighth-grade students from McKemy Middle School who participated in the development of design concepts for the locker and of bicycle-related poetry. Bimrose refined the student designs and integrated the poetry to create the final design for the 48 inch-high locker which features a brightly painted surface and poetry.

Funding: The project was funded through city of Tempe Capital Improvement Project Percent for Art funds made available through the Tempe Transit tax.

Artists biographies:

Ron Bimrose received his MFA from Arizona State University in 1984. His artwork is primarily mixed media on paper and often utilizes photographic imagery. His work has been shown in several solo and group exhibitions, both in Arizona and throughout the United States.

Rita Maria Magdaleno works as a poet-in-the-schools. Since 1991, she has served on the creative writing roster for the Arizona Commission on the Arts and is also a Commissioner to the Arizona Commission on the Arts. She participates in "Tumblewords: Writers Rolling around the West," a regional literary project to reach underserved communities, and she has taught at the University of Arizona Extended University, Pima Community College and the Writing Works Center. Her fiction and poetry has appeared in numerous publications, including *Walking in the Twilight: Women Writers of the Southwest*.

Artist statement (Magdaleno): I am a community-based writer, focusing on writing that begins with personal experience. Writing poetry and story from one's life is a powerful process, a way to find "one's self in the world." I see students become excited about their photo-narratives and family stories. Writing builds self-esteem. In the process of learning how to shape a poem, I believe that the heart is shaped into a stronger context and the writer begins to connect with that larger "communal heart." In this project a classroom of eighth-graders worked together to create something bigger than they all dreamed.